AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing flexible magnetic tape having a permanently structured magnetic characteristic which varies from place to place in two different directions in ~~the~~ a plane of the tape, the method including:[[-]]

[[a)]] providing a flexible elongated substrate with a layer of material having a permanently structured magnetic characteristic which varies in a first direction making an oblique angle relative to ~~the~~ a longest dimension of the substrate[[,]];

[[b)]] coating the ~~said~~ substrate with a slurry comprising anisotropic magnetic particles;

[[c)]] moving the substrate and slurry coating relative to a ~~first~~ magnetic field having a field strength which varies with time in a second direction making an oblique angle with the first direction~~, thereby~~;

orienting, in response to moving the substrate, the ~~said~~ magnetic particles on selected spaced areas of the substrate in a second direction making an oblique angle with the first direction, whereby the magnetic particles oriented in the second direction are overlaid on top of the permanently structured magnetic characteristic which varies in the first direction; and

[[d)]] solidifying the slurry to fix the ~~said~~ magnetic particles in place;[[.]]

wherein points on the tape are uniquely identifiable by a single linear movement of a read head.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the layer of material having a permanently structured magnetic characteristic is replaced by a layer of a metal having a modulated thickness which varies in first direction making an oblique angle relative to the longest dimension of the substrate, the thickness modulations being detectable by an active magnetic read head.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 2 in which the layer of a metal is deposited upon the ~~solidified~~ slurry ~~layer~~ that has been solidified, so that the thickness of the solidified slurry layer is substantially constant.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the layer of material having a permanently structured magnetic characteristic which varies in first direction making an oblique angle relative to the longest dimension of the substrate comprises layer including magnetic particles, the layer having a modulated thickness.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 4 in which the layer of material having a permanently structured magnetic characteristic and having a modulated thickness is deposited upon the solidified slurry layer, so that the thickness of the ~~solidified~~ slurry ~~layer~~ that has been solidified is substantially constant.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing flexible magnetic tape having a permanently structured magnetic characteristic which varies from place to place in two different directions in ~~the~~ a plane of the tape, the method including:[[-]]

a) coating a flexible substrate with a slurry comprising anisotropic magnetic particles;

b) moving the substrate and slurry coating relative to a first magnetic field having a field strength which varies with time in a first direction~~, thereby;~~

c)orienting, in response to the moving, the ~~said~~ magnetic particles in a first direction, whereby the particles oriented in the first direction produce a detectable pattern oriented in the first direction;

[[c)]]d) subsequently moving the substrate and slurry coating relative to a second magnetic field having a field strength which varies with time in a second direction making an oblique angle with the first direction~~, thereby~~ ;

e) orienting, in response to the subsequently moving, a subset of the ~~said~~ magnetic particles on selected spaced areas of the substrate in a second direction making an oblique angle with the first direction, whereby the subset of the particles oriented in the second direction produce a detectable pattern in the second direction which is superimposed over the detectable pattern oriented in the first direction;

[[d)]] f) solidifying the slurry to fix the said particles in place;

~~characterised~~ characterized in that the first magnetic field has a magnetic field strength which varies with time in said first direction, such that following step [[c]]e) the ~~said~~ magnetic particles are selectively oriented in spaced areas in both said first and said further directions; and

wherein the first detectable pattern and the second detectable pattern are uniquely identifiable by a single linear movement of a read head.

7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 6, in which the substrate is subsequently slit along either said first or said second direction to provide a plurality of lengths of tape having respective permanently structured magnetic patterns which vary in a single direction in the plane of the tape.

Claims 8-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the substrate is subsequently slit along either said first or said second direction to provide a plurality of lengths of tape having respective permanently structured magnetic patterns which vary in a single direction in the plane of the tape.

Claims 11-12 (Cancelled)

13. (New) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

moving the substrate and slurry coating relative to a third magnetic field having a field strength which varies with time in a direction that is one of

parallel to the first direction, and

oblique to the first direction and second direction; and

orienting a subset of the subset of magnetic particles oriented in the second direction on selected spaced areas of the substrate in a direction that is one of

parallel to the first direction, and

oblique to the first direction and second direction.

14. (New) A flexible magnetic tape having a permanently structured magnetic characteristic which varies from place to place in two different directions in a plane of the tape, the flexible magnetic tape comprising:

a flexible substrate comprising a solidified slurry including anisotropic magnetic particles, wherein a first set of the magnetic particles are oriented by a first magnetic field in a first direction, whereby the first set of particles oriented in the first direction produce a detectable pattern oriented in the first direction, and wherein a second set of the magnetic particles are oriented by a second magnetic field in a second direction making an oblique angle with the first direction, whereby the second set of particles oriented in the second direction produce a detectable pattern in the second direction which is superimposed over the detectable pattern oriented in the first direction.